

# 2005 MCAT® Essentials

FOR PAPER TEST AND COMPUTER-BASED TEST (CBT) ADMINISTRATIONS (updated November 2004)

## 2005 MCAT Examination Test Date Schedule

**THIS DOCUMENT IS REQUIRED READING FOR MCAT Examination CANDIDATES.**

TEST DATES	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINES	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINES (Requires a \$50 late fee)
April 16, 2005	March 11, 2005	March 25, 2005
August 20, 2005	July 15, 2005	July 29, 2005

**NOTE: MCAT Examination Registration is Online Only**

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## Contact Information

- **Test registration, administration, score reporting, and other questions** — If you are unable to find answers to questions in this publication, visit the MCAT Examination website ([www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat)) or contact:

### for Paper Test Candidates

MCAT Program Office  
 P.O. Box 4056  
 Iowa City, IA 52243-4056  
 (319) 337-1357  
 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., central time)

### for Computer-based Test (CBT) Candidates

MCAT CBT Program Office  
 1000 Lancaster Street  
 Baltimore, MD 21202  
[mcat@thomson.com](mailto:mcat@thomson.com)

To ensure a prompt reply, please give the following information **exactly** as you entered it on your registration form or answer sheet: your name, Social Security number (if originally provided), address, date of birth, and test date. Please include your daytime telephone number in case we need to reach you by phone.

- **If you have a complaint about the test center and/or the conditions under which you took the test, or if you believe a question on the test is flawed or ambiguous, please detail your concerns in a letter and send it within three weeks of the test date to:**

### for Paper Test Candidates

MCAT Program Office  
 P.O. Box 4056  
 Iowa City, IA 52243-4056

### for CBT Candidates

MCAT CBT Program Office  
 1000 Lancaster Street  
 Baltimore, MD 21202  
[mcat@thomson.com](mailto:mcat@thomson.com)

- **If you need to send any correspondence concerning the paper test through a special delivery or courier service, address it to:**

### for Paper Test Candidates

MCAT Program Office  
 Tyler Building  
 301 ACT Drive  
 Iowa City, IA 52245  
 (319) 337-1357

- **Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD):**

### for Paper Test Candidates

Call (319) 337-1701 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., central time).

- **To access the MCAT Examination online Web registration or to purchase official MCAT Practice Tests:**

[www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat)

- **To access MCAT Examination Scores:**

<http://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>

- **MCAT Program e-mail addresses:**

**Paper Test** Program Office: [mcat\\_reg@act.org](mailto:mcat_reg@act.org)

**CBT:** [mcat@thomson.com](mailto:mcat@thomson.com)

**Policy and Research:** [mcat@aamc.org](mailto:mcat@aamc.org)

- **If you have a question regarding policy, research, or test development, write to:**

MCAT Research and Test Development  
 Section for Applicant Assessment Services  
 Association of American Medical Colleges  
 2450 N Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20037-1127

- **If you have a question regarding official MCAT publications or to order those publications, write or call:**

Association of American Medical Colleges  
 Publications Department  
 2450 N Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20037-1127  
 (202) 828-0416

Or visit [www.aamc.org/publications](http://www.aamc.org/publications)

- **If you have a question regarding the AAMC Fee Assistance Program, write or call:**

AAMC Fee Assistance Program  
 Association of American Medical Colleges  
 2450 N Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20037-1127  
 (202) 828-0600  
 E-mail: [fap@aamc.org](mailto:fap@aamc.org)

- **If you have questions about sending scores to schools, please visit our website at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat) or write to us at [mcat@aamc.org](mailto:mcat@aamc.org).**



- **Requests for information about the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)® and all inquiries regarding score reports to AMCAS-participating schools should be directed to:**

AMCAS  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
2450 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1127  
(202) 828-0600  
[www.aamc.org/amcas](http://www.aamc.org/amcas)  
[amcas@aamc.org](mailto:amcas@aamc.org)

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## Introduction

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in cooperation with its member U.S. medical schools develops the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The MCAT exam is a secure, nondisclosed standardized test. It and all related test materials are copyright protected. The AAMC owns all aspects of the MCAT exam, including examinees' scores. Individually identifiable scores will be released only to the examinee and to other persons and institutions specifically authorized to receive MCAT exam scores.

The MCAT exam assesses mastery of basic concepts in biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics; scientific problem solving and critical thinking; and writing skills. The skills and concepts tested by the MCAT exam are those identified by physicians and medical educators as prerequisite for success in medical school and as a physician. Medical school faculty hope that testing for these skills on the MCAT exam will encourage undergraduates with broad educational backgrounds to consider careers in the health professions and will stimulate premedical students to investigate a wide variety of course offerings outside the natural sciences.

The goal of the MCAT exam is to help admission committees predict which of their applicants will be successful in medical school. In addition, the exam can be used to help applicants who are not accepted to medical school determine the academic areas in which they may need further study. The extent to which test results are used in admission decisions varies from one medical school to another. In general, test results are combined with other information, such as undergraduate records, references, and results of personal interviews. Standardized test scores provide a way for admission committees to compare the qualifications of applicants from a variety of undergraduate institutions. They also contribute toward the evaluation of grades and other credentials.

The emphasis that the admission committees place on MCAT exam scores will vary from school to school. Other sources of information used by admission committees include the following:

- undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate grade-point averages;
- breadth and difficulty of undergraduate coursework;
- letters of evaluation from undergraduate advisors or others;
- personal comments on application forms;
- involvement in extracurricular activities such as student governance and community service;
- involvement in and quality of health-related work and research;

- participation in other activities demonstrating motivation, responsibility, maturity, integrity, resourcefulness, tolerance, perseverance, dedication to service, citizenship, or other relevant noncognitive characteristics;
- compatibility between the candidate's characteristics/professional goals and the institutional mission;
- knowledge of health care issues and commitment to health care;
- medical school interview results; and
- state or county of legal residence.

The use of and emphasis placed upon these criteria will differ among schools, as will the range of acceptable MCAT exam scores.

A survey of medical school admission officers indicated that the MCAT exam serves three main functions for the committees: (1) identification of applicants who are likely to succeed in medical school and those likely to experience academic difficulty; (2) assessment of applicants' specific strengths and weaknesses; and (3) interpretation of applicants' transcripts and letters of evaluation.

The MCAT exam is given in April and August of each year at established test centers. In any one year, a candidate may test only once in April and once in August. There is no provision for makeup tests.

**Applicants seeking to enter medical school in the fall of 2006 are advised to take the examination on the April or August 2005 test date.** Candidates are encouraged to take the MCAT exam about 18 months before they plan to enter medical school. Most institutions prefer that candidates test in April because of the relatively short time between the availability of August test scores and the schools' application deadlines. However, the date for the August administration of the MCAT exam is carefully selected to ensure that scores are available to meet most application deadlines. Each candidate should choose the test date appropriate to the application requirements of the medical college(s) of his or her choice (see the *Medical School Admission Requirements* handbook published by AAMC).

Candidates are urged to register early for either test date. Since registrations are processed in the order received, submitting your registration early increases the likelihood of testing at the first-choice test center.

For the **paper test**, the MCAT Program Office begins mailing registration confirmations to paper test candidates (Admission Ticket for a specific test center

and MCAT Identification Card) approximately **five weeks prior to the test date**.

For **CBT**, an e-mail confirmation will be sent verifying the details of your appointment within 2 business days of submission of your request. If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation within two business days, please send an email to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com). **If you are registering to take the MCAT on computer, you will NOT receive an ID card.**

**If taking the Paper Test**, the overall length of the test day is approximately nine and one-half hours. Candidates report to the test centers by 8:00 A.M. There are two ten-minute breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and a one-hour lunch break. The exam ends at approximately 5:30 P.M.

**If taking the CBT**, the overall length of the test day is approximately seven and one-half hours. Candidates report to the test centers 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. Start times vary by location and will be stated in your confirmation e-mail. There are two optional ten-minute breaks, one following the first section of the examination and one following the third section of your examination, and an optional one-hour lunch break.

The exam has four sections. The Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences sections consist of multiple-choice questions, and the Writing Sample consists of two essays. Some experimental items will be included in each multiple-choice section. The number of test questions and testing time allotted for each section are as follows:

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Questions</i>	<i>Time in Minutes</i>
Physical Sciences	77	100
Verbal Reasoning	60	85
Writing Sample	2	60
Biological Sciences	77	100

The MCAT Physical Sciences section is designed to assess reasoning in general chemistry and physics. The MCAT Biological Sciences section is designed to assess reasoning in biology and organic chemistry. Each

section contains 10 to 11 problem sets, each about 250 words in length that describe a situation or problem. Each problem set is followed by 4 to 8 questions. In addition, approximately 15 questions are independent of any passage and each other.

Neither the passage-related questions nor the independent questions test the ability to memorize scientific facts. Rather, both types of questions assess knowledge of basic physical and biological science concepts and your facility at problem solving in general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and biology.

The Verbal Reasoning section of the MCAT exam is designed to assess your ability to understand, evaluate, and apply information and arguments presented in prose texts. The test consists of several passages, each about 450-600 words long, taken from the humanities and social sciences and from areas of the natural sciences not tested on the MCAT Physical and Biological Sciences sections. Each passage is accompanied by 5 to 10 questions based on the information presented in the passage. Test questions do not cover a specific set of topics; all the information needed to answer each question is provided in the accompanying passage.

The MCAT Writing Sample consists of two 30-minute essays. The Writing Sample is designed to assess skill in the following areas:

- developing a central idea,
- synthesizing concepts and ideas,
- presenting ideas cohesively and logically, and
- writing clearly, following accepted practices of grammar, syntax, and punctuation consistent with timed, first-draft composition.

Each Writing Sample item provides a specific topic that requires an expository response. Topics do **not** pertain to the content of biology, chemistry, or physics; to the medical school application process or reasons for the choice of medicine as a career; to social and cultural issues not in the general experience of college students; or to religious or other emotionally charged issues. Topics do not assess subject matter knowledge.

## Fees

Regular Examination Fee .....	\$200.00
Additional Sunday Examination Fee.....	\$ 10.00
Additional Foreign Examination Fee.....	\$ 60.00
Additional Late Registration Fee .....	\$ 50.00
Change of Test Center Fee .....	\$ 20.00
Returned Check Fee.....	\$ 20.00

**Fee Payment must be in U.S. funds.**

Once you have submitted your registration online, you have indicated your intent to attend the test and your registration will be processed. It is not possible to stop the registration process once submitted. If you change your mind and do not sit for the exam, you are eligible for a **partial** refund as described below in "Refunds."

If an examinee registers before the regular registration deadline, the fee for taking the MCAT

exam is \$200.00 for candidates testing on Saturday in a domestic location (i.e., the United States, Canada,

Guam, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands), \$210.00 for domestic Sunday administrations, and \$260.00 for all other sites (e.g., Europe). Payment must be in the form of a credit card (MasterCard, VISA, or E-Payment), **payable in U.S. funds**. For **CBT** registration, you may also use American Express; however, for CBT, you may not use E-Payment.

If you register during the late registration period, you must pay a nonrefundable \$50.00 fee in addition to the regular examination fee.

For the **Paper Test**, if your check is returned by your bank as non-negotiable (this includes non-sufficient

funds, stopped payments and closed accounts) or if your e-payment or credit card charge is declined or reversed at your discretion, the MCAT Program Office will continue to process your current registration but will block all test scores, MCAT records, and your ability to register for other MCAT exam administrations until the current account is cleared.

For **CBT**, if your credit card charge is reversed at your discretion, or declined for any reason, you must provide an alternate form of payment upon request. If an alternate form of payment is not provided upon request your registration/appointment will be cancelled.

## Fee Assistance

The AAMC provides the AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) to aid those individuals with the most **extreme** financial limitations whose inability to pay the full MCAT exam registration fee would prohibit registration for the examination. FAP will be granted to a single individual for no more than five calendar years, beginning with 2001. The AAMC Fee Assistance reduces the MCAT testing fee for eligible individuals from \$200 to \$85.

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program is operated according to eligibility policies and processing procedures established by the AAMC. Application for the AAMC Fee Assistance Program is available only online, at the AAMC website ([www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat)). FAP 2005 registration opens in early January 2005. If provisional approval is granted, supporting documentation must be mailed to the AAMC and received before the documentation receipt date. Late or non-receipt of documentation voids the grant for that test date and, possibly, future dates. Registration for the exam using fee assistance cannot proceed until the documents have been processed and a final "FAP code" received.

This program is not a financial aid program; therefore, it does **not** make distinctions between dependent and independent student status. To be considered for the AAMC Fee Assistance Program, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

AAMC Fee Assistance Program applications **and all required supporting documents** must be received at the AAMC by the following documentation receipt dates to be considered for fee assistance for the corresponding MCAT exam test dates. An AAMC Fee Assistance Program approval may also be used to obtain a fee waiver for portions of the 2005 AMCAS application and fee reduction for the August 2005 MCAT exam. If an application and documentation are received after the documentation receipt date for the April 2005 test, it may still be processed and, if approved, may be applied to the AMCAS application and the August MCAT exam.

**Test Date**  
 April 16, 2005  
 August 20, 2005

**Documentation Needed By**  
 February 18, 2005  
 June 24, 2005

## Registering for the MCAT Examination

### Who May Register

Individuals who sit for the MCAT exam should be preparing to apply to a health professions school. Health professions schools include schools of allopathic, osteopathic, podiatric, and veterinary medicine. **Registration is available only online at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat).**

At the time of testing, you will be required to sign/accept a statement verifying your intention of applying to a health professions school. The statement is as follows: "I have read and hereby agree to the conditions set forth in

the MCAT exam registration information, including the dispute remedy provisions. I certify that I am the person whose name and address appear on this form. I further affirm and agree that I will not copy or otherwise reproduce any exam questions or answers onto material to be taken from the exam room. Likewise, I will not disclose – in whole or in part – any exam questions or answers to anyone during or after the exam, whether orally, in writing, on any internet "chat rooms," or otherwise. I recognize and acknowledge that the exam I am about to take is a secure examination, protected by U.S. copyright laws, and that any unauthorized

disclosure of the exam's contents could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, cancellation of my test scores, and/or disciplinary action by the AAMC." If this statement is not signed/accepted, you will not be permitted to test. If you have attended an MCAT exam three or more times, if you are not applying to a health professions school, or if you are a currently enrolled medical student, please see "Special Permission Requirements" below.

### Registration

The only way to register for the MCAT exam is online. You will be able to access the Web registration site approximately 12 weeks prior to each test date.

For the **Paper Test**, payment must be made by MasterCard, VISA, or E-Payment payable in U.S. dollars. Once you have begun the registration process and have a valid login name and password, your record will be available until you submit it or the registration deadline has passed.

For **CBT**, payment must be made by MasterCard, VISA, or American Express payable in U.S. dollars. Within 2 business days of submission of the on-line registration form, you will receive an e-mail confirmation detailing your appointment information. If you do not receive confirmation within 2 business days of registering, please contact the MCAT CBT Program Office.

Registration, for the April MCAT exam, opens on or about January 3, 2005 and, for the August MCAT exam, opens on or about June 6, 2005.

The following situations require additional information to be mailed to the MCAT Program Office (for the Paper Test) or mailed to the MCAT CBT Program Office (for the CBT) before registration can be confirmed. Reference "Special Permission Requirements" below.

- If you have taken the MCAT exam three or more times.
- If you are requesting testing accommodations due to a disability.

You must be pre-registered to take the MCAT exam. There is **no walk-in registration**. Early registration is important because test centers have limited capacity and registrations are processed in the order in which they are submitted. If both your first- and second-choice test centers are filled before your registration is processed, the MCAT Program Office will try to assign you to another test center in the same general area with an available seat.

### Regular Registration Deadline

**PAPER TEST:** To qualify for the regular examination fee, registrations must be **submitted online** by 5:00 P.M. (central standard time) on the date indicated.

**CBT:** To qualify for the regular examination fee, registrations must be **submitted online** by 5:00 P.M. (eastern standard time) on the date indicated.

### Late Registration Deadline

**PAPER TEST:** If you miss the regular deadline, you may register during the late registration time period. To register during the late period, registrations must be submitted and documentation materials must be **received** at the MCAT Program Office by 5:00 P.M. (central time) on the late registration deadline date. A non-refundable \$50 late fee will be assessed.

**CBT:** If you miss the regular deadline, you may register during the late registration time period. To register during the late period, registrations must be **submitted online** by 5:00 P.M. (eastern standard time) on the late registration deadline date. A non-refundable \$50 late fee will be assessed.

### Registration for Sunday Testing

If your religious convictions prevent you from taking the examination on Saturday or if you have an unavoidable conflict, you may request a Sunday testing. Be sure to check the CBT registration website to see if Sunday test days are offered domestically. Sunday administrations are always held on the day immediately after the Saturday administration. To register for Sunday examinations, you must pay a fee of \$10.00 in addition to the regular fee of \$200.00 and complete an online written request stating your reason for taking the exam on Sunday. Registration deadlines are the same for both Saturday and Sunday testing. Registrations for Sunday testing submitted during the late registration period must also include the non-refundable late fee of \$50.00.

### Registration for International Testing Sites (Paper Test)

MCAT exam testing sites outside of the US, Canada, and their territories are considered non-domestic and international. Due to the extra costs of testing internationally, an additional fee of \$60.00 is required.

International testing is offered by paper test or CBT; registration and deadlines may vary. More specific information is available online at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat).

### Registration for Domestic (U.S.) CBT Sites

As with the traditional examination, the MCAT program requires a government-issued picture identification (such as a driver's license or passport) and fingerprints when registering on test day. These measures help to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the examination. Sites using computer-based testing will capture these data electronically, allowing rapid identification and re-entry to the testing facility during breaks. These data will be retained by MCAT and will be available for future MCAT exam administrations, if applicable, or for future identity verification purposes.



The fee for the domestic CBT is \$200. All other fees apply as indicated in the "Fees" section of this document.

### Candidates with Disabilities

Reasonable testing accommodations are available for U.S. MCAT exam candidates who have a disability as the term is defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act. At this time, the accommodations are only available for paper test candidates. For more information, please see our website at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat).

### Special Permission Requirements

#### Attended Three or More MCAT Examinations

If you have attended **three or more** MCAT exams, you must apply for special permission to take the test again. You must check the box next to the special permission query. For the paper test, "Attended" is defined as "breaking the seal of the first test book." For the CBT, an event is considered as "attended" once you are seated at the workstation and the Test Center Administrator starts your exam. Therefore, even if you did not complete all four sections or you voided your answer documents, you have "attended" for test administration purposes.

If you have attended three or more times, your request for special permission to take the MCAT exam again must include evidence **dated within the two previous calendar years** of intent to apply to a health professions school by providing **any one** of the following: (1) a copy of your completed and submitted medical school application; (2) a letter of rejection from a medical school to which you have applied; (3) a letter on school stationery from an undergraduate advisor or professor who knows you well enough to document your intention of applying to medical school (dated after your last MCAT exam); or (4) a copy of a letter on school stationery from a medical school admission officer, an

advisor, or a professor (dated after your last MCAT exam) advising you to retest.

**NOTE: this documentation is required each time you wish to retest and must be mailed to the appropriate MCAT Program Office (different mailing addresses depending on paper test or CBT) as soon as possible.**

**For PAPER TEST** mail to MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, IA 52243-4056. Your registration will not be considered complete until this documentation is received and processed.

**For CBT** mail to MCAT CBT Program Office, 1000 Lancaster Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. You will not be able to register until this documentation is received and processed.

### Other Special Permission Situations

You must also apply for special permission to take the MCAT exam if you (1) wish to take the test for any reason other than applying to a health professions school or (2) are a currently enrolled medical student.

For **paper test** administration, to apply for special permission, send a written request **MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, IA 52243-4056** at the time you submit your registration online stating your reason(s) for wanting to take the MCAT. You must check the box next to the query indicating your request for special permission. Such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. You will receive a response prior to the test date.

For **CBT**, to apply for special permission, send an email request to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com) stating your reason(s) for wanting to take the MCAT. You will receive a response prior to being able to register for your examination.

## Score Release Options

### Primary Release Information

By registering for the MCAT exam, you are releasing your scores to the AAMC and its affiliated institutions for use in its research. The confidentiality of your scores will be maintained at all times. Your scores will not be reported in any personally identifiable way, except with your permission. In order to proceed with the MCAT registration process, this release of information must be checked as YES. Checking NO will disable your MCAT registration process.

### Secondary Release Information

**During MCAT exam registration**, you must consider and respond to three different score release questions. You (in addition to AMCAS) are the only person to receive your scores automatically. You must specifically authorize, with these three score releases, whether or not your scores are to be sent to anyone else.

Registration is the only time you will be asked about your release preferences.

**NOTE: THESE RELEASES ARE NOT FOR SENDING YOUR MCAT EXAM SCORES TO MEDICAL SCHOOLS FOR ADMISSION PURPOSES.**

The releases you must consider ask whether or not you want a report of your MCAT exam scores and contact information sent to the institution or agency described. These releases are for services that may be of benefit to you as you pursue admission to medical school. The costs of these services are included in the basic registration fee. **YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR RESPONSE TO THESE THREE RELEASES AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR REGISTRATION ONLINE.**

### 1. Health Professions Advisor



With this release, you give the AAMC permission to send a report of your MCAT exam scores and contact information to your undergraduate health professions advisor(s). This information is very useful to advisors when counseling students. Advisors may share your scores with members of their premedical committees or others involved in preparing letters of recommendation. NOTE: Some undergraduate institutions have not designated an official health professions advisor or have not identified the advisor to the AAMC. Advisor score reports cannot be prepared for these institutions. In addition, checking the advisor release in the Schools Attended section on your AMCAS application will also send your MCAT exam scores to a school's designated advisor.

## 2. Med-MAR

This release is for use by underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged students who plan to apply to medical school. With this release, you give the AAMC permission to include your scores and biographical information in the Medical Minority Applicant Registry (Med-MAR), a service created to enhance admission opportunities for individuals from groups currently underrepresented in medicine. The program's registry distributes Web-based basic biographical information on prospective medical school applicants to admission offices of AAMC members and certain health-related

agencies interested in increasing opportunities for students from underrepresented groups and economically disadvantaged individuals. The registry is updated twice a year, (usually July and November after each administration of the MCAT exam) at no cost to students or medical schools. You are eligible for Med-MAR if you meet the following criteria: (1) You are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident visa holder; and (2) You are a member of a racial or ethnic group currently underrepresented in medicine and/or economically disadvantaged.

## 3. MCAT Recruiting Service

With this release, you give the AAMC permission to include your contact and MCAT exam score information in reports produced by the MCAT Recruiting Service. This service is used by institutions that may be interested in sending you information as part of their recruiting efforts. Accredited U.S. and Canadian schools of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, and veterinary medicine, and scholarship programs of the U.S. government including U.S. military may request information about MCAT examinees and use that information to contact examinees who may be potential applicant.

# Changing Test Centers

**For Paper Test:** Test center changes should be requested only if absolutely necessary and can be made only if space permits. Once a test center is full, changes for admission into that center cannot be granted.

You may request a test center change only after receiving your Admission Ticket. To change your test center, send a written request (**do not return your MCAT ID Card as you will need to take it with you to the test center**), the unused Admission Ticket, and a check or money order for \$20.00 to the MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, IA 52243-4056. Include in your request the name and city of the test center (you may want to list more than one choice) to

which you wish to be assigned. **Your request must be received by the late registration deadline.** Test center changes are made on a first-come, first-served basis after all registration processing is complete. If the change cannot be made, your original Admission Ticket and test center change fee will be returned.

**For CBT:** Only after you have received your email confirmation of your registration and test site, you may reschedule or request a CBT center change no later than 12:00 noon, local test center time, on the fifth business day before the day of the test. You may request a CBT center change by emailing [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com).

# Refunds

If you submit registration materials to the MCAT Program Office (for the Paper Test) and then, for whatever reason, do not attend the test, you are eligible for a partial refund of your registration fee. This policy is the same for domestic CBT candidates. **Refunds will not be issued to candidates who registered for foreign test centers (paper or CBT).**

*For the Paper Test, once you have broken the seal of the first test booklet on test day, you are regarded as*

*having attended the test and are not eligible for a refund. For the CBT, an event is considered as "attended" once you are seated at the workstation and the Test Center Administrator starts your exam. Even if you do not complete all four sections of the test or you void your answer documents, you have attended for test administration purposes and are not eligible for a refund.*

The maximum refund for the regular registration fee is \$100.00. Additional fees paid for a Sunday test center,

late registration, or other charges are not refundable. Refund requests must be postmarked no later than 60 days after the test date on your Admission Ticket or Confirmation. Extension of this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. You should receive your refund within 90 days after the test date.

**For Paper Test** registration refund, write "REFUND" across your unused Admission Ticket. If you paid your fees by credit card and wish to have the refund credited, please write the credit card number and expiration date

on the Admission Ticket. Otherwise, the refund will be issued in the form of a check payable to you. Please also indicate a change of mailing address, if necessary. Mail your unused Admission Ticket to: Refund Request, MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, IA 52243-4056.

**For CBT** registration refund, email your request to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com) no later than 60 days after the test date on your Email Registration Confirmation.

## Preparing for the MCAT Examination

Your preparation for the MCAT exam should begin with a careful review of the information on the MCAT website, and in the MCAT Student Manual, also available on the website. Note the reasoning, writing, and problem-solving skills assessed by the MCAT exam and the science topics covered on the test. Particularly in the sciences, you should review relevant course outlines, notes, and textbooks. After you have covered the material online and reviewed course materials, you should take one or more of the official MCAT Practice Tests in order to help determine the areas in which you may need further study. When taking a practice test, try to replicate an actual testing environment as closely as possible. Minimize distractions, time yourself, and take the sections in their standard order (Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences).

Official MCAT Practice Tests are comprised of items that were developed exclusively for the MCAT and are currently available for purchase from the AAMC. Using the provided raw-to-scaled score conversion tables, candidates can estimate their likely MCAT exam score, plus or minus one scaled score. **A free online practice test is available online at [www.e-mcat.com](http://www.e-mcat.com).** This practice test provides optional interactive feedback that can be turned on/off by the examinee, automated scoring, and a sophisticated diagnostic summary report across content areas. It also permits candidates to select an entire examination or a section only, and to customize their item selection by content area, type of skill, type of reading passage, or item difficulty.

Little computer skill is required to complete the CBT MCAT. Since the Writing Sample requires some keyboarding skills, candidates who prefer to handwrite their essays should not register for the CBT MCAT. An online tutorial will be available to MCAT CBT Registrants approximately one month prior to the test

date to provide candidates with exposure to the format and functionality. The same tutorial will be repeated on test day.

The scientific competency you will be expected to demonstrate on the MCAT exam is derived from basic principles and concepts in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. These principles and concepts are treated in the basic biology, chemistry, and physics courses offered at most undergraduate institutions. Because the depth of knowledge you will be expected to demonstrate is limited, it is not generally advantageous to enroll in advanced science courses for the purpose of improving your performance on the MCAT exam.

The information necessary to answer the questions on the Verbal Reasoning section will be presented in the passages that accompany each set of test questions. Your performance on this section will be enhanced by participation in a variety of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences during your undergraduate studies. You need not specialize in any of these areas, but through your reading and coursework, you should become familiar with the types of critical thinking and reasoning skills used in these disciplines.

The best preparation for the Writing Sample is coursework in expository writing or composition, which will acquaint you with the components of a well-written, well-organized essay. You may also benefit from taking courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences that have strong writing requirements. In responding to the Writing Sample, you should be sure that you address the given topic, respond to the specific writing tasks, and fully develop your ideas into a complete, unified essay.

## Taking the MCAT Examination (PAPER TEST ADMINISTRATION)

You are required to present an MCAT Admission Ticket and Identification Card to gain admission to a test center on test day. The MCAT Program Office begins mailing admission tickets and ID cards approximately five weeks prior to each test date. Since registrations are processed in the order submitted, if you complete your online registration at least six weeks prior to the test date, you will be among the first to receive an Admission Ticket. Keep these time frames in mind, and **if you do not receive your Admission Ticket, and Identification Card within a reasonable time after registration, it is your responsibility to call the MCAT Program Office at (319) 337-1357.** The MCAT Program Office will attempt to confirm whether or not your registration was submitted and processed.

### MCAT Identification Card

**Your MCAT Identification Card will be sent to you with your Admission Ticket after your registration has been processed.** The ID card will be used for identification purposes by the test center supervisor when you report for the examination. Carefully follow the specific instructions for completing each item on the ID card. Contact the MCAT Program Office immediately if you should lose your ID card and if time allows, a replacement will be mailed. **Remember to take your completed MCAT ID card to the test center with you on test day.**

**Photograph**—Attach with transparent tape a current, representative 2" x 2" photograph of your face of sufficient quality to make positive identification at the test center. A photocopy is not acceptable. The photograph should not extend beyond the edges of the card or over other sections of the card. **Should you be accepted to medical school, your photograph will be forwarded to the school at which you matriculate.** Medical school personnel will use the photograph to verify your identity. A U.S. passport-size photo is acceptable.

**Name, Address, Social Security Number, and Date of Birth**—Print or type your name, street address, city, state, ZIP code, Social Security number, and date of birth exactly as you indicated on your registration.

**Test Date**—Indicate the test date for which you are registering by checking the appropriate box (April or August).

**Signature**—Sign the **front** of the ID card on the line labeled "Signature."

*Do not write on the back of your ID card. It will be used on the test day.*

### MCAT Admission Ticket

The Admission Ticket shows the exact address of the test center to which you were assigned, the time at which to report, the date for which the Ticket is valid, and other helpful information about the test day. Please keep your Admission Ticket in a safe place and remember to take it with you to the test. If you should lose your Admission Ticket, call the MCAT Program Office immediately. The MCAT Program Office will give you the test center address and authorization for admission. A registrant with this information and proper identification whose name is on the test center admission roster will be admitted.

If you believe there is an error in the test center to which you were assigned, you may call the MCAT Program Office. Remember that you are not guaranteed your first or second choice. If no space remained at either your first or second choice, you may have been assigned to the nearest alternative test center.

### Admission and Identification

You must report to the test center before 8:00 A.M. local time. Admission procedures, identification verification, and seat assignments will begin at that time. The actual starting time of the test may vary at different centers because of candidate volume and preadministration procedures. No one will be admitted after the test has begun. The MCAT Program Office cannot be responsible if you are delayed or unable to reach the test center because of weather or road conditions.

### You must take the following with you to the test center:

- **Your Admission Ticket or other MCAT Program Office authorization.**
- **Your completed MCAT Identification Card.**
- **Official Personal Identification.**

The test center supervisor must positively identify you before allowing you to enter the testing room. You will be asked to show personal identification that contains both your photo and signature (e.g., a driver's license or a student identification card). If your photo ID does not have your signature on it, you should bring a second form of ID that does have your signature. Test center staff will inspect your personal identification to ascertain that it has not been altered and that it belongs to you. It is your responsibility to bring current identification in the name in which you registered for the MCAT exam. If your identification is questionable, you will be required to complete a form requesting additional information. Only candidates positively identified will be admitted to the testing room.

During the identification procedures, you will be required to sign the back of the MCAT Identification Card to certify its authenticity and your intention to apply to a health professions school. Additionally,

your right thumbprint will be taken prior to your admission to the testing room. The thumbprint will be placed on your MCAT Identification Card, which will be returned to the MCAT Program Office following the test administration. You must provide your thumbprint to be admitted to the test.

- **At least three soft-lead (No. 2) pencils** for use in completing the multiple-choice sections.
- **An eraser.**
- **Two ballpoint pens with black ink** for the Writing Sample section.
- **A watch** to help pace yourself during the test. You may not set watch alarms or other timing devices to go off during the test since this would be disturbing to others. Watches cannot have advanced functions such as calculators or cameras. **No other timing devices will be allowed.**

### Test Center Regulations and Procedures

Ensuring the authenticity and validity of test scores is a primary concern of all testing programs. Providing uniform testing procedures and maintaining test security serves the interest of examinees and test score users. In order to provide fair, equal, and secure testing conditions for all examinees, the staff at each test center will follow common procedures.

1. The supervisor will assign you to a seat. You will not be permitted to select your own seat. You must follow the directions and verbal instructions of the testing staff.
2. Access to the examination room will be restricted to test center personnel, examinees, and authorized observers.
3. Once the seal of the test book has been broken, you are considered to have tested even if you void or do not complete the test.
4. The supervisor is the official timekeeper at the exam. You will not be permitted to break the seal and begin working on any section of the test until instructed to do so by the supervisor. You will not be permitted to continue working after time is called for each section of the test. **All erasing and marking on answer sheets must be completed before time is called ending each test section.**
5. At the test center you will be given instructions on completing both identifying information and response portions of your answer document. MCAT exam answer documents (except for the essay) are scored by machine. Accuracy in scoring and reporting depends on the extent to which you properly mark your answer document and the completeness of your erasures. When an occasional scanning discrepancy does occur, it is usually the result of the machine scanner misinterpreting an incomplete erasure as an intended response or misinterpreting a light or partial mark as an unintended response. To ensure accurate scoring, you—as an examinee—are responsible for completing your answer document properly. Ovals should be completely and firmly filled in. All unintended responses should be completely erased. Tests will not be hand-scored, nor will scores be adjusted, because partially or lightly marked answer ovals were not machine scorable.
6. During the time period allotted for each section, you will be permitted to work only on that section. All answers you wish to mark on your answer document must be marked during the time allotted for that section. **Extra time to fill in partially marked answer ovals will not be allowed.**
7. Scratch paper is not permitted. You may work out your answers in the test book. However, all of your answers must be recorded on the answer document. **Answers recorded in the test book will not be scored. Extra time for transferring answers from test books to the answer document will not be allowed.**
8. Do not use or take into the testing room beeping, alarm, or calculator watches; timers (other than watches); pagers; cellular phones; books; notes; slide rules; rulers; calculators; cameras; radios; tape recorders; highlighters; colored pens; lapboards/deskboards; or aids of any kind. You may **not** wear earplugs during the test. The MCAT Program Office, MCAT staff and testing facilities are not responsible for lost or stolen possessions.
9. The MCAT exam is confidential and contains copyrighted material. All test materials, including test books and answer documents, are the property of the MCAT Program Office and AAMC and must be returned to the test supervisor after each administration. No portion of such materials may be retained by examinees. Pages or covers of test books are not to be torn out of or separated from the test books in any way. Additionally, **test takers are not permitted to duplicate or record (by copying, photographing, memorizing, or any other means) any part of the MCAT exam.**
10. You will not be allowed to eat, drink, or smoke in the testing room. A ten-minute break will be provided after the first morning section and after the first afternoon section. A sixty-minute lunch break will also be provided. You may wish to bring your lunch, since eating facilities may not be located in close proximity to the testing room or may not be equipped to handle large crowds.
11. Energy-saving practices vary widely, and you may find the testing room colder or warmer than you expected. Therefore, you should dress comfortably and be prepared for varying room temperatures. It is wise to bring a sweater or sweatshirt.
12. The MCAT Program Office and AAMC attempt to ensure that the testing environment is comfortable and that testing procedures provide for fair, equal, and secure testing conditions. If, after taking the MCAT exam, you have a concern regarding test-day

procedures or the test room environment, you should write to the MCAT Program Office within **three weeks** of the test date.

13. The MCAT Program Office and AAMC take steps that are intended to ensure that MCAT exam registration and answer documents are properly handled, processed, and scored. In the unlikely event that a mistake occurs in handling, processing, or scoring registration or answer documents or in reporting scores, the MCAT Program Office and AAMC will correct the error if possible or permit the examinee either to retest at no additional fee or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee.

### Violations of Procedures

If irregular behavior is observed, it will be reported to the MCAT Program Office and the AAMC. The following actions are prohibited, and the test supervisor will report any examinee who:

- gives or receives assistance,
- copies another examinee's work,
- uses prohibited aids (e.g., desktop timers),
- views test questions or essay prompts or marks answer ovals for any test section before instructions to begin or after instructions to stop working on that section are given,
- attempts to take the test for someone else,
- attempts to remove test books, answer documents, or any other test materials from the testing room,
- attempts to duplicate, record, or memorize test books, answer documents, or any other test materials,
- leaves the testing room without permission,
- fails, after being warned, to follow the supervisor's instructions,
- creates a disruption of any kind,
- violates test center regulations or procedures,
- violates local laws, regulations, or policies,
- fails to put pencil/pen down when the stop work announcement is made or fails to follow other verbal instructions of test staff, or
- is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

In cases where any such incident or behavior reported to or discovered by the MCAT Program Office or the AAMC is confirmed, the candidate will be notified and a report documenting the nature of the incident, with attachments provided by the individual, will be sent to legitimately interested parties (e.g., medical schools). AAMC reserves the right to inform legitimately interested parties regarding any testing irregularity involving an MCAT examinee. A separate investigation pertaining to the legitimacy of the individual's test scores may also be undertaken. The AAMC also reserves the right to cancel test scores of examinees when there is reason to believe that the scores are invalid or that they were not achieved under standard test conditions. In addition, AAMC reserves the right to request prosecution of persons whose behavior unlawfully undermines the security of the MCAT or the integrity of the testing process.

As a general practice, AAMC notifies the examinee prior to issuing a report to legitimately interested parties. This notification provides information about the options available regarding the planned report, including procedures for appealing AAMC's decision to an independent arbitrator. In all instances, the final and exclusive remedy available to examinees that want to appeal or otherwise challenge a decision by AAMC to issue a report shall be binding arbitration through written submission to the American Arbitration Association.

### Voiding Your Answer Documents

If you are not comfortable with your performance and do not wish your test to be scored, you may personally ask the test supervisor to void your answer documents at the test center. You must witness the procedure and sign a form, which the supervisor will provide, indicating your intent to void. You may ask to void your test throughout the test day, up to the time that the Biological Sciences answer documents are being collected. The test supervisor will announce the final opportunity to void your test. The test supervisor will inform the MCAT Program Office of all examinees who void their tests. Your test will be voided automatically if you are not present for all sections of the exam, regardless of the circumstances.

Voiding your answer documents on test day means that you will not receive scores. Answer documents voided on the test day cannot be "unvoided" at a later date. Furthermore, if you do not void your answer documents on test day, your test will be scored. You cannot cancel your scores at a later date.

If you void your answer documents, your participation in this administration of the MCAT exam will not be reported to AMCAS or to non-AMCAS schools. However, even if you void, you are regarded as having attended the test and, therefore, not eligible for a refund. Also, if you wish to register after having attended three or more MCAT exams (whether you voided your scores or not), you must request and obtain permission each time you wish to retest.

### Test Question Challenges

If you detect a question you think is flawed or ambiguous, you should notify the test center supervisor as soon as you finish that portion of the test.

If you would like a written response to your inquiry, you must write to the MCAT Program Office **within three weeks** of the examination. In your letter, state your name and address, the location of the center where you tested, the question number and section of the test in which the item was found, and the two-letter code for the test form you were assigned, such as "form FH." Please describe, in detail, the nature of the problem.

### Retaking the MCAT Examination

If you feel that your scores are low or that they do not accurately reflect your abilities, you may wish to take the

MCAT exam again. It may be beneficial to discuss your decision with your premedical advisor. The MCAT Program Office and AAMC recommend retaking the MCAT exam only if:

- there exists an unusual discrepancy between your college grades and MCAT exam scores,
- your coursework in areas covered on the test was inadequate,
- you misunderstood the directions or incorrectly recorded answers on the answer document,
- you had a serious illness at the time of the test, or
- a member of a medical school admission committee recommended that you retest.

According to a survey of medical school admission officers, multiple sets of scores are used in several ways. Some schools use all sets of scores equally and note improvements. Others consider only the most recent set of scores. Still others take an average of all sets of scores. Finally, some schools use only the highest set of scores or the highest individual section scores. Of the four methods, the first (using all sets of scores equally and noting improvements) is the most common. You may wish to contact an institution's admission office directly for information about its procedures.

## Taking the MCAT Examination (CBT CANDIDATES ONLY)

### Admission and Identification

You must report to the test center 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. Appointment times vary by location. Detailed information about your appointment can be found on the e-mail confirmation received after registration. Admission procedures, identification verification, and seat assignments will begin at that time. The actual starting time of the test may vary at different centers because of candidate volume and pre-administration procedures. The CBT test center administrator cannot be responsible if you are delayed or unable to reach the test center because of weather or road conditions.

As with the traditional examination, the MCAT program requires a government-issued picture identification (such as a driver's license or passport) and fingerprints when registering on test day. These measures help to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the examination. Some domestic CBT sites will capture these data electronically, allowing rapid identification and re-entry to the testing facility during breaks. These data will be retained by MCAT and will be available for future MCAT exam administrations, if applicable, or for future identity verification purposes.

**Note:** To sit for the MCAT CBT examination, you must comply with the registration requirements and procedures.  
**You must take the following with you to the test center:**

- **One valid form of Government issued identification containing both a photo and a signature.**

The test center supervisor must positively identify you before allowing you to enter the testing room. You will be asked to show personal identification that contains both your photo and signature. If your photo ID does not have your signature on it, you should bring a second form of

ID that does have your signature. Test center staff will inspect your personal identification to ascertain that it has not been altered and that it belongs to you. It is your responsibility to bring current identification in the name in which you registered for the MCAT exam. Only candidates positively identified will be admitted to the testing room.

At some domestic CBT sites, a digital image of two of your fingerprints will be taken and your identification will be scanned each time before entering the test room.

### Test Center Regulations and Procedures

Ensuring the authenticity and validity of test scores is a primary concern of all testing programs. Providing uniform testing procedures and maintaining test security serves the interest of examinees and test score users. In order to provide fair, equal, and secure testing conditions for all examinees, the staff at each test center will follow common procedures.

1. Scratch paper, ear covers (industrial) and pencils are provided. No other testing aids are allowed.
2. Other than ID, no personal items are allowed in the testing room. Personal belongings, including telephones, pagers, books, handbags and food, must be stored in the designated locker that has been assigned to you.
3. You must sign in and out on the Signature Log each time you enter and leave the test room. You must produce identification each time before entering the test room.
4. A digital image of your fingerprint will be taken and your identification will be re-scanned each time before entering the test room.
5. If you require assistance during the exam, raise your hand and the Test Center Administrator will come to assist you.



6. The Test Center Administrator will assign you to a seat. You will not be permitted to select your own seat. You must follow the directions and verbal instructions of the testing staff.
7. Access to the examination room will be restricted to test center personnel, examinees, and authorized observers.
8. Once the examination is launched, you are considered to have tested even if you void or do not complete the test.
9. The testing clock will begin to count down as soon as the examination is started. The timer is visible on your testing monitor throughout the examination. Time is counted down by section. If you end a section early, you may continue on to the next section. The additional time will NOT be counted towards any subsequent sections.
10. You will not be allowed to eat, drink, or smoke in the testing room. An optional ten-minute break will be provided after the first section and after the third section. An optional sixty-minute lunch break will also be provided. You may wish to bring your lunch, since eating facilities may not be located in close proximity to the testing room or may not be equipped to handle large crowds. Lockers are provided to hold lunches and other personal items.
11. Energy-saving practices vary widely, and you may find the testing room colder or warmer than you expected. Therefore, you should dress comfortably and be prepared for varying room temperatures. It is wise to bring a sweater or sweatshirt.
12. Measures are taken to ensure that the testing environment is comfortable and that testing procedures provide for fair, equal, and secure testing conditions. If, after taking the MCAT exam, you have a concern regarding test-day procedures or the test room environment, you should inform the Test Center Administrator on the day of testing and submit your concern in writing to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com) within **three weeks** of the test date.
13. Steps are taken that are intended to ensure that MCAT registration and answers are properly handled, processed, and scored. In the unlikely event that a mistake occurs in handling, processing, or scoring registration or answers or in reporting scores the error will be corrected, if possible, or the examinee will be permitted to either retest at no additional fee or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee.

### Violations of Procedures

If irregular behavior is observed, it will first be reported to CBT Test Center Administrator and then AAMC. The following actions are prohibited, and the Test Center Administrator will report any examinee who:

- gives or receives assistance,
- copies another examinee's work,
- uses prohibited aids (e.g., desktop timers),
- attempts to take the test for someone else,
- attempts to remove scratch paper from the testing room,
- attempts to duplicate, record, or memorize test content, answer documents, or any other test materials,
- leaves the testing room without permission,
- fails, after being warned, to follow the supervisor's instructions,
- creates a disruption of any kind,
- violates test center regulations or procedures,
- violates local laws, regulations, or policies,
- is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

In cases where any such incident or behavior is reported to or discovered by the Test Center Administrator or the AAMC and is confirmed, the candidate will be notified and a report documenting the nature of the incident, with attachments provided by the individual, will be sent to legitimately interested parties (e.g., medical schools). AAMC reserves the right to inform legitimately interested parties regarding any testing irregularity involving an MCAT examinee. A separate investigation pertaining to the legitimacy of the individual's test scores may also be undertaken. The AAMC also reserves the right to cancel test scores of examinees when there is reason to believe that the scores are invalid or that they were not achieved under standard test conditions. In addition, AAMC reserves the right to request prosecution of persons whose behavior unlawfully undermines the security of the MCAT exam or the integrity of the testing process.

As a general practice, AAMC notifies the examinee prior to issuing a report to legitimately interested parties. This notification provides information about the options available regarding the planned report, including procedures for appealing AAMC's decision to an independent arbitrator. In all instances, the final and exclusive remedy available to examinees who want to appeal or otherwise challenge a decision by AAMC to issue a report shall be binding arbitration through written submission to the American Arbitration Association.

### Voiding Your Answer Documents

If you are not comfortable with your performance and do not wish your test to be scored, you must note this at the end of your examination. Your test will be voided automatically if you are not present for all sections of the exam, regardless of the circumstances. Voiding your scores on test day means that you will not receive scores. Scores voided on the test day cannot be "unvoided" at a later date. Furthermore, if you do not void your scores on test day, your test will be scored. You cannot cancel your scores at a later date. If you void your scores, your participation in this administration of the MCAT exam will not be reported to AMCAS or to

non-AMCAS schools. However, even if you void, you are regarded as having attended the test and, therefore, not eligible for a refund. Also, if you wish to register after having attended three or more MCAT exams (whether you voided your scores or not), you must request and obtain permission each time you wish to retest.

### Test Question Challenges

If you detect a question you think is flawed or ambiguous, you should notify the test center administrator as soon as you finish that portion of the test. If you would like a written response to your inquiry, you must write to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com) **within three weeks** of the examination. In your e-mail, state your name and address, the location of the center where you tested, the question number and section of the test in which the item was found. Please describe, in detail, the nature of the problem.

### Retaking the MCAT Examination

If you feel that your scores are low or that they do not accurately reflect your abilities, you may wish to take the MCAT again. It may be beneficial to discuss your decision with your premedical advisor. The AAMC recommends retaking the MCAT only if:

- there exists an unusual discrepancy between your college grades and MCAT exam scores,
- your coursework in areas covered on the test was inadequate,
- you misunderstood the directions or incorrectly recorded answers on the answer document,
- you had a serious illness at the time of the test, or
- a member of a medical school admission committee recommended that you retest.

According to a survey of medical school admission officers, multiple sets of scores are used in several ways. Some schools use all sets of scores equally and note improvements. Others consider only the most recent set of scores. Still others take an average of all sets of scores. Finally, some schools use only the highest set of scores or the highest individual section scores. Of the four methods, the first (using all sets of scores equally and noting improvements) is the most common. You may wish to contact an institution's admission office directly for information about its procedures.

## MCAT Examination Scoring

### How MCAT Examination Scores Are Determined

The MCAT exam consists of four test sections. The Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences sections contain multiple-choice questions, and the Writing Sample section consists of two essays. Four separate scores are derived from the MCAT exam, one for each section. Each raw score that you achieve on the multiple-choice sections is calculated by summing the number of scored questions you answer correctly, with no penalty for incorrect answers.

Although all test forms of the MCAT exam measure the same basic skills and concepts, each form contains different questions. Since one form may be slightly more difficult or slightly easier than another, it is necessary to convert the raw scores to a scale that takes into account differences in the difficulty of test questions. Regardless of the particular test form used, or the particular administration at which the test is taken, equal scaled scores will represent the same level of skill mastery.

The scaled scores used for reporting MCAT exam performance range from a low of 1 to a high of 15 for each of the three multiple-choice sections of the test. For example, if your raw score on one section is between 40 and 43, your converted scaled score might be 11. If your raw score is between 44 and 46, your converted scaled score might be 12, and so forth.

Conversion of your raw scores to the 15-point scale helps minimize variability in test scores. The 15-point scale tends to provide a more stable and accurate assessment of your abilities, since two examinees of equal ability would be expected to get the same scaled score, even though there might be a slight difference in their raw scores.

Writing Sample essays are rated by a group of trained readers. Your raw score on the Writing Sample is the sum of four individual scores. Two readers each score your first essay and two different readers each score your second essay. Each individual score is on a scale of 1 to 6. Your total raw score is converted to an alphabetic scale ranging from J (lowest) to T (highest). The same alphabetic score can result from different combinations of individual scores. For example, a candidate whose individual scores are 4 and 5 on the first topic and 4 and 4 on the second—for a raw score of 17—would receive the same alphabetic score as a student who scored 3 and 3 on the first topic and 5 and 6 on the second. Interpretive information—scaled score means and standard deviations for each section, percentages of examinees receiving each scaled score, and percentile rank ranges—are provided with your score report so that you may compare your performance to that of other examinees.

### Delivery of Score Reports to Examinees

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office will use all available and reasonable means to transmit MCAT score reports by first-class mail to examinees **approximately 60 days** after each test date. Allow for mailing time, and if you do not receive a score report within this time frame, you may contact the MCAT Program Office. ***Under no circumstances will scores be given to examinees over the telephone.***

If you want your scores sent to an address different than your registration address, for the paper test, please complete the appropriate section of Answer Document 1 on the day of the test. For CBT, send you request to [mcats@thomson.com](mailto:mcats@thomson.com). Neither the AAMC nor the MCAT Program Office will be responsible for any claims or damages for loss or injury resulting to any person from delayed transmission of test scores for any reason whatsoever.

### MCAT Testing History (THx) System

The AAMC offers an online score-reporting system with the MCAT Testing History (THx) System. Examinees can view, at no cost, their most recent MCAT exam scores through the online THx system as soon as they are available at the AAMC. Examinees can send THx score reports to application services (besides AMCAS), podiatry, veterinary and public health programs. Examinee-printed official score reports can be verified online by schools, allowing examinees to send an official score report anywhere they wish. Paper score reports are still mailed to all examinees.

**Note:** MCAT exam scores from 1991 to the present may be accessed through the MCAT Testing History (THx) system at <http://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>.

### Requests for Rescoring Paper Test Answer Documents

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office maintain a variety of quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy of scores and score reporting. Multiple-choice answer documents are scored by machine, and the results of this process are extremely accurate. Each of the Writing Sample essays is read and graded by two different sets of readers, and any differences beyond one raw score point are resolved by a supervisory reader.

However, if you think a scoring error has occurred, you may request that your multiple-choice answer documents be rescored by hand. Answers recorded in the test book will not be considered in this verification process. The result of rescoring the multiple-choice answer sheets by hand will be reported to you in writing. The response letter will either confirm that your original scores were correct as reported or you will be informed of the corrected scaled scores for each test section. Raw

scores will not be disclosed. Answer sheets or test booklets will not be examined for indications of misgridded answers. This is a determination we cannot make. If after receiving your response letter, you may request to be present during a hand scoring of your multiple-choice documents, which is done at the MCAT Program Office in Iowa City, Iowa. This request must be made in writing within four months after the test date.

The fee to rescore the answer documents for the multiple-choice sections of the MCAT exam is \$50. **This fee applies whether you want one, two, or all three multiple-choice sections rescored.**

You may also request that your Writing Sample essays be reevaluated. Essays will be read and graded by an experienced reader external to the original scoring process. Copies of essays will not be released or provided to examinees. The fee for rescoring your MCAT exam essays is \$50.

If you wish to use this service, you must write to the MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, IA 52243, noting on the envelope "Attention: MCAT Rescoring Service." In your letter, identify yourself by your full name, Social Security number (SSN/SIN) or the ID number assigned to you by the Program Office, mailing address, and telephone number. Specify the date of the test and the sections of the test you wish rescored, either the three multiple-choice sections, the Writing Sample, or both. Also, explain why you feel rescoring is necessary. Enclose a check, money order, or credit card information (MasterCard or VISA 16-digit card number, expiration date, amount, and signature of cardholder) for the full fee: \$50 to rescore the multiple-choice answer documents, \$50 to reevaluate the Writing Sample essays, or \$100 to rescore both the multiple-choice sections and the essays.

We will not process rescoring requests until all scoring and data analyses following the test date have been completed and your scores have been reported to you. Requests for rescoring must be received at the MCAT Program Office **within four months** after the test date. The results of rescoring the multiple-choice answer documents will be reported to you about three weeks after we receive and begin processing your request. Due to the time involved in imaging the essays and the nature of the essay scoring process, essay rescoring will require additional time to accomplish (up to 4 months after the request is received). However, you will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible. **NOTE:** If rescoring results in scores that are higher **or lower**, revised score reports will be sent to you and AMCAS, but you are responsible for sending the new scores to other score recipients via the MCAT THx System online at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat).

## MCAT Examination Score Reporting

### Score Reporting through AMCAS

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) is a centralized application processing service of the AAMC, which was developed to facilitate and standardize the process of applying to participating medical schools. If you wish to apply to a medical school that participates in AMCAS, you must complete an AMCAS application and submit it to the AAMC. Currently, most U.S. medical schools participate in AMCAS. AMCAS is only for first-year entering class applicants to allopathic medical schools. Advanced standing and transfer applicants should contact the medical schools directly for application information.

When you apply to medical schools through AMCAS, the AAMC sends your application materials to the medical schools you have designated on your AMCAS application. **Note: 2003, 2004 and 2005 MCAT scores will automatically be included.** Scores from 1991 – 2002 also will be included only if you have released them to AMCAS.

If, on test day in those previous years, you did not release your MCAT exam scores to AMCAS-participating schools, you may do so at any time afterwards. You must use the online MCAT THx System to request that your MCAT exam scores for that particular test date be released to the AMCAS-participating schools to which you are applying (that is, request to change your AMCAS release for that test date from “no” to “yes”). All 2003 and later scores are automatically released to AMCAS and become a part of your MCAT transcript, which will be sent to schools you specify via the MCAT THx system online.

If you take the MCAT exam **after** you have submitted your AMCAS application (for example, you submit your application in July and take the August MCAT exam), AMCAS will send updated application information to the schools to which you applied indicating your new test date and scores. You will receive a copy of this information via an AMCAS Transmittal Notice.

You may obtain AMCAS information from your advisor or directly from the AAMC website [www.aamc.org/amcas](http://www.aamc.org/amcas). Questions concerning getting MCAT exam scores to appear in an AMCAS application, AMCAS application materials, and AMCAS procedures should be directed to AMCAS at the AAMC, not to the MCAT Program Office. AMCAS questions may be submitted electronically to [amcas@aamc.org](mailto:amcas@aamc.org).

### Score Reporting to Non-AMCAS Institutions

You do not need to specify on test day the non-AMCAS schools to which your MCAT exam scores should be sent. Instead, use the online MCAT THx system (<http://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>) to specify the non-AMCAS schools and application services to which your MCAT exam testing history should be sent. If the school to which you want your scores sent is not listed, you may print a copy of your scores from the THx system and mail them directly. This service is free for scores **after** 1990, which have been electronically requested via the MCAT THx system. For MCAT exam scores **prior** to 1991, a form that can be faxed or mailed is available at [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat).

## Additional MCAT Information

### Remedies for Errors

AAMC and the MCAT Program Office take steps that are intended to ensure that exam registration materials are properly handled and processed, and that exams and answer sheets are properly prepared, printed, handled and scored. In the unlikely event that a mistake occurs in preparing, handling, processing or scoring an exam, or in reporting scores, AAMC will correct the error, if possible, or permit the affected examinee(s) either to retest at no additional fee or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee. **THESE REMEDIES ARE THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO EXAMINEES FOR ERRORS IN PREPARING, HANDLING OR PROCESSING REGISTRATION MATERIALS; IN PRINTING, HANDLING OR PROCESSING EXAMS AND EXAM ANSWER SHEETS; OR IN DETERMINING OR REPORTING SCORES.**

### Disruptions in Testing and Potential Compromises

AAMC and the MCAT Program Office also take steps that are intended to ensure standardized administration on the test day. If events occur which cause testing to be cancelled or interrupted, involve a mistiming on any part of the test, result in a deviation from required testing procedures, raise concerns about possible advance access to an exam's content by one or more examinees, or otherwise disrupt or compromise the normal testing process, AAMC will examine the situation and determine if corrective action is warranted, including score cancellation(s) or non-scoring of answer documents. If AAMC, in its sole discretion, determines that action is warranted, each affected examinee will be offered the option either to retest at no additional fee (normally on a future national test date) or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee (unless the affected examinees are found to have caused or been involved in the conduct

which resulted in the corrective action, in which event AAMC shall have the right to withhold either or both of these options). If AAMC offers a retest and an examinee selects that option, the examinee must re-take the entire exam in order to produce a valid score. THESE REMEDIES ARE THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO EXAMINEES AFFECTED BY DISRUPTIONS IN TESTING OR POTENTIAL COMPROMISES THROUGH PRIOR ACCESS TO EXAM CONTENT BY ONE OR MORE EXAMINEES.

**Cancellation of Scores by AAMC**

AAMC also reserves the right to cancel test scores when there is reason to believe the scores are invalid. Cases of testing irregularities -- such as falsification of one's

identity, impersonation of another examinee (surrogate testing), unusual similarities in the answers of examinees at the same test center, or other indicators that the test scores may not be valid -- may result in the cancellation of test scores. When AAMC decides to cancel test scores, it notifies the examinee before taking that action (except in cases of testing disruptions or compromises discussed above). The notice includes information about the options available regarding the planned score cancellation, including procedures for appealing the cancellation decision. In any such appeal, the issue to be decided is whether AAMC acted reasonably and in good faith in deciding to cancel the scores.

***MCAT Practice Online!***  
**[www.e-mcat.com](http://www.e-mcat.com)**

(Note: Requires IE 5.0 or greater or Netscape 6.0.

Access is single user unlimited from purchase date through the next two administrations of the MCAT.)